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MEHDI MORSHED, Executive Director

## **CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY**

June 13, 2003

## Dear Stakeholder:

As reported in our January stakeholder letter, the Governor's Budget released in January recommended the consolidation of the Authority with Caltrans. During the May Revise process that proposal was removed from further consideration and funding was provided for the finalization of the program environmental document as well as for the preparation of an Implementation Plan. Consequently the Authority will remain an independent entity solely responsible for the implementation of the high-speed train program.

At the May 27, 2003 board meeting in Irvine, the Authority voted to approve the staff recommendations for eliminating some of the conventional rail design options at key locations along the Los Angeles-Orange County-San Diego (LOSSAN) Corridor. LOSSAN Corridor screening recommendations were made for design options at Del Mar, Encinitas, San Clemente/Dana Point, and San Juan Capistrano. Most notably, the Authority concluded that there was enough technical data and public input to warrant eliminating design options along the Del Mar Bluffs, on the beach at San Clemente, and through the middle of the historic district at San Juan Capistrano. Each of these alternatives would result in significant environmental impacts as well as severe public and agency opposition. The Revised LOSSAN Corridor Screening Recommendations Report submitted to the Authority is available on the Authority's website.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's June 24, 2003 public Board Meeting will be held at the Elihu Harris Building Auditorium located at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland. This meeting will include an election of officers, approval of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a public outreach contract, and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the owner/operator of the Caltrain Commuter Rail Service along the San Francisco Peninsula. The meeting will also include presentations on preliminary findings on several draft technical studies including growth effects, traffic, geology and visual impacts.

Comments can be sent to our mailing address, via our website (<u>www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov</u>) or by attending our Authority meetings. The Authority looks forward to your input.

Sincerely,

Mehdi Morshed Executive Director

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